



Jan. 6 committee prepares to go public as findings mount

WASHINGTON (AP) — They've interviewed more than 300 witnesses, collected tens of thousands of documents and traveled around the country to talk to election officials who were pressured by Donald Trump. Now, after six months of intense work, the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection is preparing to go public. In the coming months, members of the panel will start to reveal their findings against the backdrop of the former president and his allies' persistent efforts to whitewash the riots and reject suggestions that he helped instigate them. The committee also faces the burden of trying to persuade the American public that their conclusions are

fact-based and credible. But the nine lawmakers — seven Democrats and two Republicans — are united in their commitment to tell the full story of Jan. 6, and they are planning televised hearings and reports that will bring their findings out into the open. Their goal is not only to show the severity of the riot, but also to make a clear connection between the attack and Trump's brazen pressure on the states and Congress to overturn Joe Biden's legitimate election as president. "The full picture is coming to light, despite President Trump's ongoing efforts to hide the picture," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chairwoman and one of its two Republican members.

Continued on next page



Members of the House of Representatives gather in the chamber to vote on creation of a select committee to investigate the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, at the Capitol in Washington, on June 30, 2021.

Associated Press

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"I don't think there's any area of this broader history in which we aren't learning new things," she said.

While the fundamental facts of Jan. 6 are known, the committee says the extraordinary trove of material they have collected — 35,000 pages of records so far, including texts, emails and phone records from people close to Trump — is fleshing out critical details of the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries, which played out on live television.

They hope to fill in the blanks about the preparations before the attack, the financing behind the Jan. 6 rally that preceded it and the extensive White House campaign to overturn the 2020 election. They are also investigating what Trump himself was doing as his



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, left, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., exchange places at the microphones during a news conference after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi rejected two of McCarthy's picks for the committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, Jordan and Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., at the Capitol in Washington, on July 21, 2021.

Associated Press

supporters fought their way into the Capitol.

True accountability may be fleeting. Congressional

investigations are not criminal cases and lawmakers cannot dole out punishments. Even as the com-

mittee works, Trump and his allies continue to push lies about election fraud while working to place similarly minded officials at all levels of state and local government.

"I think that the challenge that we face is that the attacks on our democracy are continuing — they didn't come to an end on Jan. 6," said another panel member, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., also chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Still, the lawmakers hope they can present the public with a thorough accounting that captures what could have been "an even more serious and deeper constitutional crisis," as Cheney put it.

"I think this is one of the single most important congressional investigations in history," Cheney said.

The committee is up against the clock. Republicans could disband the investigation if they win the House majority in the November 2022 elections. The committee's final report is expected before then, with a possible interim report coming in the spring or summer.

In the hearings, which could start in the coming weeks, the committee wants to "bring the people who conducted the elections to Washington and tell their story," said the panel's chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss. Their testimony, he said, will further debunk Trump's claims of election fraud.

The committee has interviewed several election officials in battleground states, including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania, about Trump's pressure campaign. In some cases, staff have traveled to those states to gather more information.

The panel also is focusing on the preparations for the Jan. 6 rally near the White House where Trump told his supporters to "fight like hell" — and how the rioters may have planned to block the electoral count if they had been able to get their hands on the electoral ballots.

They need to amplify to the public, Thompson said,

"that it was an organized effort to change the outcome of the election by bringing people to Washington ... and ultimately if all else failed, weaponize the people who came by sending them to the Capitol." About 90% of the witnesses called by the committee have cooperated, Thompson said, despite the defiance of high-profile Trump allies such as Steve Bannon and former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows. Lawmakers said they have been effective at gathering information from other sources in part because they share a unity of purpose rarely seen in a congressional investigation.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California, a close Trump ally, decided not to appoint any GOP members to the committee after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., rejected two of his picks last summer.

Pelosi, who created the select committee after Republican senators rejected an evenly bipartisan outside commission, subsequently appointed Republicans Cheney and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, Trump critics who shared the Democrats' desire to investigate the attack.

"I think you can see that Kevin made an epic mistake," Kinzinger said. "I think part of the reason we've gone so fast and have been so effective so far is because we've decided and we have the ability to do this as a nonpartisan investigation."

Kinzinger said the investigation would be "a very different scene" if Republicans allied with Trump were participating and able to obstruct some of their work.

"I think in five or 10 years, when school kids learn about Jan. 6, they're going to get the accurate story," Kinzinger said. "And I think that's going to be dependent on what we do here." Democrats say having two Republicans working with them has been an asset, especially as they try to reach conservative audiences who may still believe Trump's falsehoods about a stolen election. □

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Fauci: CDC mulling COVID test requirement for asymptomatic

By HOPE YEN and AAMER MADHANI

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the COVID-19 omicron variant surges across the United States, top federal health officials are looking to add a negative test along with its five-day isolation restrictions for asymptomatic Americans who catch the coronavirus, the White House's top medical adviser said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now considering including the negative test as part of its guidance after getting significant "pushback" on its updated recommendations last week.

Under that Dec. 27 guidance, isolation restrictions for people infected with COVID-19 were shortened from 10 days to five days if they are no longer feeling symptoms or running a fever. After that period, they are asked to spend the following five days wearing a mask when around others. The guidelines have since received criticism from many health professionals



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Dec. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

for not specifying a negative antigen test as a requirement for leaving isolation.

"There has been some concern about why we don't ask people at that five-day period to get tested," Fauci said. "Looking at it again, there may be an option in that, that testing could be

a part of that, and I think we're going to be hearing more about that in the next day or so from the CDC."

Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, said the U.S. has been seeing almost a "vertical increase" of new cases, now averaging 400,000 cases a day, with hospitalizations

also up.

"We are definitely in the middle of a very severe surge and uptick in cases," he said. "The acceleration of cases that we've seen is really unprecedented, gone well beyond anything we've seen before."

Fauci said he's concerned that the omicron variant is

overwhelming the health care system and causing a "major disruption" on other essential services.

"When I say major disruptions, you're certainly going to see stresses on the system and the system being people with any kind of jobs ... particularly with critical jobs to keep society functioning normally," Fauci said. "We already know that there are reports from fire departments, from police departments in different cities that 10, 20, 25 and sometimes 30% of the people are ill. That's something that we need to be concerned about, because we want to make sure that we don't have such an impact on society that there really is a disruption. I hope that doesn't happen."

While there is "accumulating evidence" that omicron might lead to less severe illness, he cautioned that the data remains early. Fauci said he worries in particular about the tens of millions of unvaccinated Americans because "a fair number of them are going to get severe disease." □

Twitter bans Rep. Greene's personal account for COVID claims

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter said Sunday it had banned the personal account of far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene for multiple violations of the platform's COVID-19 misinformation policy, the latest strike against the firebrand whose embrace of conspiracy theories has been called "a cancer" for the GOP and led the House to boot her from committees. The Georgia Republican's account was permanently suspended under the "strike" system Twitter launched in March, which uses artificial intelligence to identify posts about the coronavirus that are misleading enough to cause harm to people. Two or three strikes earn a 12-hour account lock. Four strikes prompt a weeklong suspension. Five or more strikes can get someone permanently removed from Twitter.

In a statement on the messaging app Telegram, Greene blasted Twitter's move as un-American. She wrote that her account was suspended after tweeting statistics from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a government database that includes unverified raw data.

"Twitter is an enemy to America and can't handle the truth," Greene said. "That's fine, I'll show America we don't need them and it's time to defeat our enemies."

Twitter had previously suspended Greene's personal account for periods ranging from 12 hours to a full week. The ban applies to Greene's personal account, @mtgreenee, but does not affect her official Twitter account, @RepMTG.

The first-term has repeatedly stirred controversy over inflammatory commentary.

On social media, she has voiced support for racist views, unfounded QAnon pro-Donald Trump conspiracy theories such as the lie that the 2020 election was stolen and calls for violence against Democratic politicians, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Last February, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called her embrace of conspiracy theories and "loony lies" a "cancer for the Republican Party." The Democratic-led House that same month tossed her from her two committee assignments, the House Education and Labor Committee as well as the House Budget Committee.

In July, Twitter suspended Greene for a week after President Joe Biden urged tech companies to take stronger action against bogus vaccine claims that are



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., listens during a news conference about the treatment of people being held in the District of Columbia jail who are charged with crimes in the Jan. 6 insurrection, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

"killing people." Twitter has defended its efforts to keep dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 off its site, saying it has removed thousands of tweets and challenged millions of accounts worldwide.

Among Greene's final tweets was one Saturday

that falsely referenced "extremely high amounts of covid vaccine deaths," according to her Telegram account, which appears to mirror her now-banned Twitter feed when compared with Greene tweets stored in the Internet Archive. □

2 missing; survivors count blessings after Colorado fire

By **THOMAS PEIPERT, BRITTANY PETERSON and EUGENE GARCIA**

LOUISVILLE, Colo. (AP) — Search teams looked for two missing people on Sunday in the snow-covered but still smoldering debris from a massive Colorado wildfire, while people who barely escaped the flames sorted through what was left after the blaze and investigators tried to determine its cause.

The flames ripped through at least 9.4 square miles (24 square kilometers) and left nearly 1,000 homes and other buildings destroyed in suburbs between Denver and Boulder. It came unusually late in the year following an extremely dry fall and amid a winter nearly devoid of snow. Experts say those conditions, along with high winds, helped the fire spread.

In hard-hit Louisville, Susan Hill walked her dog in the well-below freezing chill Sunday morning down a snowy street. She choked up as she remembered three days ago seeing the sky change color from the hill where she used to watch fireworks — and then the nervous sprint out of



A burned truck in a destroyed neighborhood in Louisville, Colo., on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

town with her college-age son and the dog, cat and the fire box with birth certificates and other documents. The flames stopped about 100 yards (90 meters) from her property, and she slept Saturday night in her home using a space heater and hot water bottles to stay warm since her natural gas service had not been turned back on.

"I don't even know how to describe it," she said. "It's so sad. It's so awful. It's just devastating."

In the burned-out neighborhood near Hill's home, a U.S. Mail carrier checked the still-standing brick and stone boxes for outgoing mail. The fire came so quickly people might have put bills or other letters in there, and she didn't want

someone to steal them.

While homes that burned to the foundations were still smoldering in some places, the blaze was no longer considered an immediate threat — especially with Saturday's snow and frigid temperatures.

"A day late and a dollar short," Hill said of snow, which scientists said typically prevents winter fires

that spread in dry grass. Authorities initially said everyone was accounted for after the fire. But Boulder County spokesperson Jennifer Churchill said the reports of three people missing were later discovered amid the scramble to manage the emergency. One was found alive, officials said Sunday.

Crews were still looking for a woman at a home in Superior and a man living near Marshall. Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said their homes were "deep in hot debris and covered with snow. It is a difficult task."

Other investigators were seeing if the missing people might have made it out, but not contacted their families or friends, Pelle said.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and federal emergency officials visited some of the damaged neighborhoods Sunday morning.

"I know this is a hard time in your life if you've lost everything or you don't even know what you lost," Polis said after the tour. "A few days ago you were celebrating Christmas at home and hanging your stockings and now home and hearth have been destroyed." □

Crews rescue 21 people on stuck tram cars in New Mexico



A passenger is lowered from a Sandia Peak Tramway car that was stranded overnight on New Year's Eve on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press

By **PAUL DAVENPORT**

New Mexico search and rescue crews used ropes and helicopters Saturday to rescue 21 people who were stranded overnight

in two tram cars after an iced-over cable caused the cars to get stuck high up in the Sandia Mountains overlooking Albuquerque. Lt. Robert Arguelles a Ber-

nalillo County Fire Department spokesperson, said early Saturday afternoon that crews first rescued 20 people stranded in one car and several hours later rescued a 21st person stranded by themselves in a second car.

All the people on the two cars were employees of the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway or a mountain-top restaurant, and the 20 in one car were being ferried down to the base of the mountains at the end of their workdays, Arguelles said.

The other employee had been heading up the mountain to provide overnight security when the tram system shut down Friday night due to icing, Arguelles said.

There were no reported in-

juries among those stranded, Arguelles said. "More just pretty frustrated."

To rescue the 20 people in the one car, operators were able to move it to a nearby support tower more than halfway up the mountain, and search and rescue personnel early Saturday morning hiked to the area and climbed the tower to deliver blankets and other supplies to those inside the heated car, Arguelles said. Search and rescue personnel over several hours used ropes and other equipment to lower the stranded employees about 85 feet (26 meters) to the ground before escorting them to a nearby landing zone in the steep and rocky terrain where the tower was located, Arguelles said.

The 20 people were then

ferried by helicopter several at a time to the base of the mountains, he said.

Arguelles said the second car with the one employee aboard was higher up the mountain and at location where the car was too high above the ground to lower people by ropes.

But the tram system was able to inch the second car down the cable to the rescue site at the support tower, and rescuers then used ropes to lower the 21st person as was done with the others, Arguelles said.

Brian Coon, a tramway system manager, said there was an unusually fast accumulation of ice on one of the cables that made it droop below the tram, making it dangerous to keep going, KOB-TV reported. □

EU draft on financing nuclear and gas plants raises ire

By **RAF CASERT** and **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Draft European Union plans that would allow nuclear and gas energy to remain part of the bloc's path to a climate-friendly future came under immediate criticism over the weekend from both environmentalists and some governing political parties in EU member nations.

In draft conclusions seen by The Associated Press, the EU's executive commission proposes a classification system for defining what counts as an investment in sustainable energy.

Under certain conditions, it would allow gas and nuclear energy to be part of the mix.

The plans would have a huge impact on nuclear-fired economies like France and on Germany's gas-fueled power plants since they might have had to fundamentally change their strategies.

Energy use accounts for about three-quarters the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the EU and is thus instrumental to the 27-nation bloc's efforts to meet its commitments for



Steam rises from the cooling tower of the nuclear power plant of Gundremmingen, Bavaria, Germany, Friday, Dec. 31, 2021.

Associated Press

curbing global warming.

The plans still need the backing of a large majority of the 27 member states and a simple majority in the European Parliament. But the initial thrust from the EU Commission is a key element of the procedure for passage.

"Classifying investments in gas and nuclear power as sustainable contradicts the Green Deal," the EU's initiative that is intended to make the bloc climate-neutral by 2050, said Ska Keller, the president of the Green group in the Europe-

an Parliament.

France has asked for nuclear power to be included in the so-called "taxonomy" by the end of the year, leading the charge with several other EU countries that operate nuclear power plants and want to make it eligible for green financing.

French Minister for European Affairs Clement Beaune said the proposal is good on a technical level and insisted on Sunday that the bloc "cannot become carbon neutral by 2050 without nuclear energy.

Germany, the EU's biggest economy, is heading the other way, Germany shut down half of the six nuclear plants it still had in operation on Friday, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power. Gas is a polluting fossil fuel, but it is still considered a bridge technology by the EU to reach a cleaner energy future.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck criticized the plan to classify investments in gas and nuclear power plants as climate-

friendly.

"The EU Commission's proposals water down the good label for sustainability," Habeck, who represents the Germany's environmentalist Greens in the country's coalition government, told German news agency dpa. "We don't see how to approve the new proposals of the EU Commission," he said.

"In any case, it is questionable whether this greenwashing will even find acceptance on the financial market," Habeck stressed, referring to the practice of painting investments as sustainable when they actually are not.

In Austria, Climate Protection Minister Leonore Gewessler from the Greens also sharply rejected the proposed regulation, saying "the EU Commission took a step towards greenwashing nuclear power and fossil gas in a night and fog action."

"They are harmful to the climate and the environment and destroy the future of our children," Gewessler said.

The environmental NGO Greenpeace called the Commission draft proposals "a licence to greenwash." □

Thousands gather to oppose Dutch virus measures despite ban

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Thousands of people in the Netherlands defied a ban on assembling and demonstrated Sunday against the Dutch government's coronavirus lockdown measures, gathering on a central square before marching toward a park in Amsterdam.

A small group of demonstrators briefly clashed with riot police as officers worked to clear the crowd from Museum Square based on an order from Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema. Reporters at the scene saw at least one person being detained.

The local government had outlawed the protest, saying police had indications some demonstrators might be planning to attend "pre-

pared for violence." The municipality later issued an emergency order for people to leave the square, and riot police marched across the grass to clear the area, sending the demonstrators into nearby streets. Before officers moved in, some participants unfurled a banner that read, "Less repression, more care" near the Van Gogh Museum. A group of people in white overalls and white masks held up signs, including one that said: "It's not about a virus, it's about control" on one side and "Freedom" on the other. One person walked through the crowd carrying a "Trump 2024" flag.

There was a heavy police presence on the square and in nearby streets. The municipality designated

the area as a security risk region, giving police the authority to frisk people preventatively.

After marching through the city, demonstrators began gathering at a western Amsterdam park for a rally of the populist Forum for Democracy party.

The demonstration came on the same day Dutch police said they would take action to protest the increasing demands of their work. Union representatives have said riot police would continue to work, if necessary.

Coronavirus infection rates have been gradually decreasing for weeks in the Netherlands, which re-introduced lockdown measures in November and tightened them further during the holiday season.



Police clash with demonstrators as thousands of people defied a ban Sunday to gather and protest the Dutch government's coronavirus lockdown measures, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

The 7-day rolling average of new daily cases edged slightly lower over the past week to 85.55 new cases per 100,000 people even as the omicron mutation became the nation's domi-

nant variant.

Under the lockdown, all non-essential shops are closed along with bars, restaurants and venues such as museums, theaters and cinemas. □

Lebanese Christian leader: alliance with Hezbollah imperiled

By SARAH EL DEEB

BEIRUT (AP) — The head of Lebanon's largest Christian party said on Sunday that a 15-year-old alliance with the country's powerful Shiite group Hezbollah was no longer working and must evolve.

The televised speech by Gebran Bassil, who heads the Free Patriotic Movement, signaled an unprecedented level of frustration with Hezbollah and suggested the 2006 alliance credited with helping maintain peace in the small country was in jeopardy. Bassil's comments come amid a devastating economic crisis and also ahead of critical parliamentary elections in which his party is expecting tough competition. Undoing the alliance with Hezbollah would cost him more votes in the May elections.

But Bassil, a former foreign minister, said the alliance is costing him credibility with supporters. Bassil is also the son-in-law of Lebanon's President Michel Aoun. He has positioned himself as a reformer and is believed to have ambitions to run for president himself.

Bassil pinned his frustration on Hezbollah's other ally, the powerful Shiite Amal Movement, led by Parlia-



Former Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, speaks to journalists at the presidential palace, in Baabda east of Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

ment Speaker Nabih Berri. He said in recent months Hezbollah has backed Berri's Amal at the expense of their own alliance.

"We reached an understanding with Hezbollah (in 2006) not with Amal," Bassil said in an hour-long speech. "When we discover that the one making decisions in (this alliance) is Amal, it is our right to reconsider."

Hezbollah and its allies control most seats in par-

liament and are the main backers of the government that took office in September. But the government and parliament have been paralyzed as political disagreements deepened and as Lebanon faces an unprecedented economic crisis unraveling since 2019. Berri is an old-time rival of Bassil, who accused him of using his power in parliament to block several of his draft bills.

Recently, Hezbollah and

Amal have been widely critical of the investigation into last year's Beirut Port investigation, accusing the judge of being biased against their allies—a position at odds with Bassil's party.

Hezbollah has asked for the judge to be removed, leading to a paralysis within the government. Deadly clashes in October that pitted Amal and Hezbollah supporters against Christian gunmen were triggered

by the investigation dispute and further strained relations with Bassil's party, which accused Amal of the violence.

Bassil criticized Hezbollah for not backing his party on reform laws that he says aim to weed out corruption and ensure decentralized financial policies, or in efforts to protect constitutional powers of the president. Such choices have left Bassil unable to justify to his supporters Hezbollah's decisions, he added, openly blaming Berri for the rift.

"It is understandable why the Americans want to corner Hezbollah, but it is not understandable why (Hezbollah) wants to corner themselves," Bassil said of Hezbollah's alliance with Berri.

Hezbollah is designated a terrorist group by the United States. Bassil has been placed on a U.S. sanctions list for corruption. He claims the sanctions are to pressure him to undo his alliance with Hezbollah.

"We don't want to cancel or tear apart the (2006) memorandum of understanding," Bassil said. "But we want it to evolve because it no longer responds to the challenges, particularly economic and financial, facing us." □

Hong Kong news outlet to close amid crackdown on dissent



Police officers guard outside the building of Stand News' office in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021.

Associated Press

By ZEN SOO

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong online news site said Sunday that it would cease operations in light of deteriorating press free-

doms, days after police raided and arrested seven people for sedition at a separate pro-democracy news outlet.

Citizen News announced

its decision in a Facebook post Sunday. It said it would stop updating its site on Jan. 4, and it would be shuttered after that.

"We have always loved this land, but at present, we are helpless as we are not only facing wind and rain, but tornadoes and huge waves," it said in a statement.

"We have never forgotten our original intentions, but it is a pity that the rapid changes in society in the past two years and the deterioration of the media environment have prevented us from achieving our ideals without worry."

Citizen News is the third news outlet to close in recent months, following pro-democracy newspa-

per Apple Daily and online site Stand News. Authorities have moved to silence dissent in the semi-autonomous city, once known as a hub for vibrant media outlets, after Beijing implemented a sweeping national security law following massive pro-democracy protests in 2019.

The impending closure of Citizen News came days after authorities raided Stand News and arrested seven people — including editors and former board members — for allegedly conspiring to publish seditious material. Stand News announced on the same day that it would cease to operate.

Two of Stand News' former editors were later formally

charged with sedition.

In December, the opposition was shut out from elections under a new law that puts all candidates to a loyalty test, and monuments commemorating the bloody 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing were taken down.

The U.S. and other Western governments have condemned diminishing press and civil freedoms that Beijing promised to uphold for 50 years following Hong Kong's 1997 handover from Britain.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam last week defended the raid on Stand News, telling reporters that "inciting other people ... could not be condoned under the guise of news reporting." □



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Should kids be vaccinated? Brazil turns to online survey

By DÉBORA ÁLVARES, MAURICIO SAVARESE and MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — As world leaders rely on public health specialists to inform their decisions about whether and how to vaccinate children against the coronavirus, Brazil's government is asking the online public for guidance.

In recent weeks, President Jair Bolsonaro has staked out a position against immunizing kids aged between 5 and 11, and his administration took the unusual step of creating a platform that could validate a stance that is widely opposed by experts. Since his government on Dec. 23 unveiled its online questionnaire on the issue, the president's supporters have been highly engaged on messaging apps trying to pressure parents to swing the results.

One widely shared post Wednesday on the Telegram group 'Bolsonaro Army,' which has about 37,000 members, said the vaccine is experimental and suggested that receiving shots could be more harmful than getting infected, although several studies have shown the opposite is true. It also included a link to the government's survey, which other people were posting along with instructions to relay to friends and family.

The rally for resistance resembles online behavior observed earlier this month, which catapulted Bolsonaro to the top of the heap in TIME magazine's readers poll for Person of the Year, David Nemer, an expert on Brazil's far-right groups on messaging apps, told The Associated Press. Bolsonaro garnered about one-quarter of the more than



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro poses for photos with the mascot of his nation's vaccination campaign, named "Ze Gotinha," or Joseph Droplet, during a ceremony to present the National Vaccination Plan Against COVID-19 at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Dec. 16, 2020.

Associated Press

9 million votes — nearly triple that of the runner-up, former U.S. President Donald Trump. The magazine's editors instead chose Elon Musk as 2021 Person of the Year.

This time, however, online efforts are aimed at something far more significant than bestowing an honorific on the president. The survey, which concludes Jan. 2, stands to shape vaccination policy in Latin America's most populous nation, home to 20 million kids aged 5 to 11. Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga has said they will soon be eligible for vaccination, but survey results will help determine guidelines including whether shots could only be administered with parental consent and a doctor's prescription.

"This is a tool of democracy, it widens the discussion on the topic and it will bring

more ease for parents so they can take their children to immunize against COVID-19," Queiroga said Wednesday.

Health experts, for their part, are aghast. Some Brazilian states' health secretariats have already pledged to ignore any health ministry guidelines on childhood vaccination if based on the public consultation. Gonzalo Vecina, founder and director of Brazil's health regulator between 1999 and 2003, says public consultation on vaccines is "unprecedented". "Bolsonaro is against the vaccine and his employee, the health minister, believes that health is a matter of public opinion. It is a spurious and nonsensical approach," Vecina told the AP. "If only deniers send their opinion in the public consultation, is the government going to say that the

vaccine doesn't have to be used?"

Denialism from the top in Brazil is a bit of déjà vu. Even as COVID-19 exploded, driving the nation's death toll to the second highest in the world, Bolsonaro spent months sowing doubts about vaccines and was obstinate in his refusal to get a shot. He has cited the fact he contracted the coronavirus in 2020 to claim, incorrectly, that he is already immune, and routinely characterizes vaccination as an issue of personal choice rather than a means for ensuring the common good.

So when Brazil's health regulator authorized use of Pfizer's shot for children on Dec. 16, Bolsonaro was stunned.

"Kids are something very serious," he said the same night in his weekly live broadcast on social media.

"We don't know about possible adverse future effects. It's unbelievable — I'm sorry — what the agency did. Unbelievable."

A study released Thursday by U.S. health authorities confirmed that serious side effects from the Pfizer vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 are rare. The findings were based on approximately 8 million doses dispensed to youngsters in that age group.

Bolsonaro added that he would name and expose the public servants who issued the approval, prompting a union representing health agency workers to express concern about online abuse or even physical attacks.

Despite fervent support among his base, Bolsonaro's anti-vaccine stance hasn't gained as much traction in Brazil — which has a proud history of inoculation campaigns — as in the U.S. More than two-thirds of Brazilians are fully vaccinated, as compared to 63% in the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins University's vaccination tracker, though American children have been eligible for shots since early November.

In neighboring Argentina, the government has allowed kids 12 years and older to be vaccinated since August, and more recently began giving shots to children as young as 3. In the face of subsequent criticism, the nation's health ministry cited the recommendation of the nation's association of pediatricians. In Chile, two-thirds of kids aged between 3 and 17 have already received both their shots, after the nation's health regulator analyzed an immunization study of 100 million children. □

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MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable



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- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

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Thank you for supporting our free newspaper throughout the year. For 2022 we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

Here are some Happy new Year Greetings from our readers

Karen and Donny Feldman from Lynnfield, Massachusetts

"Happy New Year from Aruba to everyone far and near! Aruba only brings smiles to everyone. That is why it is "The Happy Island". They say people have 3 things to be truly happy in this world:someone to love, something to do and

something to hope for. And we are adding a fourth : an Aruban Vacation.

Eli'sa Morgan from Corona, NY and Aiken, SC

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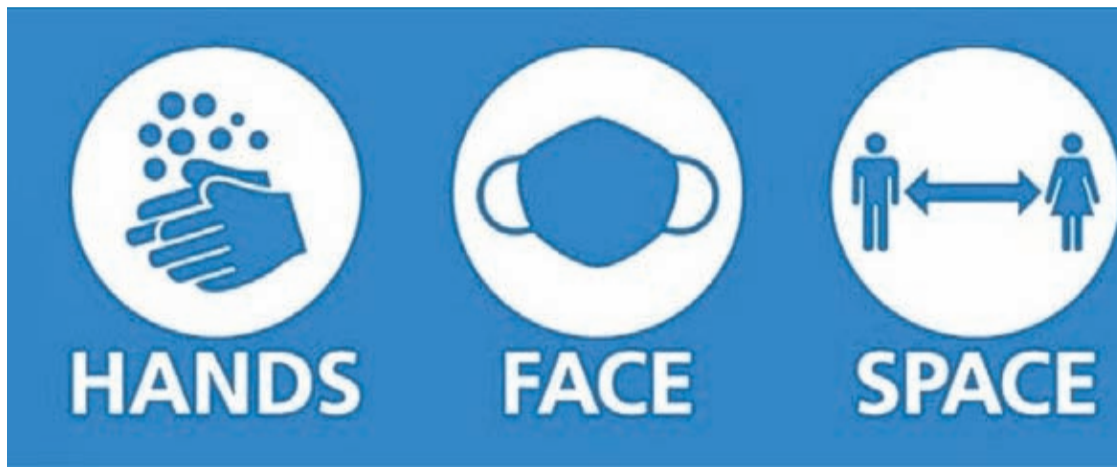
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COVID-19 Status on Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Rules and protocols are being reviewed and evaluated on a daily basis and adapted as per current situation by a crisis team, in order to protect each and every one visiting and residing our island.

Covid Status:

There are currently 3,058 active cases. 2,570 are residents and 488 non-residents. 181 deceased.

There are 10 persons hospitalized in Aruba of which 3 are in the ICU. Due to lack of staff at the hospital they have to send patients over to Colombia for treatment. There are currently 3 persons at the ICU in Colombia.

Vaccination Status:

A total of 84,191 of the total population has been vaccinated of which 78,627 persons received both shots of the vaccine and 5,564 received only the first shot. Children as young as 12 years are being vaccinated. For the senior population of 60 years and older a total of 21,794 received both shots and 995 received only the first shot. Aruba is administering booster shots to persons 55 and older

The measures are as follows as of December 30, 2021

- Curfew: NO Curfew
- Closing Time: 12:00 am for all business for the exception of Casino's which can stay open till 1:00 am
- Restaurants: Max. 6 people per table.
- Social Activities and Sports: Max. people: 60 indoors, 75 outdoors.
- Funerals: Max. people: 75 (if the space is adequately large enough)
- Area Ban 7:00 pm - 5:00 am
- Nightlife: Dancing is not permitted
- Entertainment: Max 5 musicians on stage.
- Gathering Ban: Max. 6 people.
- Shopping: 1 person per family

** Businesses are allowed to lit their pagara until 12:00pm on December 31, 2021.

** Nightlife will be able to stay open until 1:00am on New Year's day instead of 12:00 am.

The following measures remain applicable:

- Masks: Use of masks is mandatory inside at all establishments.
- Alcohol: Ban of alcohol on public roads: 24 hours.
- Social Distancing: Continue maintaining social distance. ☐

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Europe's shared notes and coins turn 20 at New Year's

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The European Central Bank is celebrating the 20th anniversary of euro notes and coins as member countries wrestle with the pandemic's impact on the economy and the European Union forges a new level of financial cooperation to help boost the recovery.

The event is being marked at midnight New Year's Eve with a light display in blue and yellow, the colors of the EU, projected on its skyscraper headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.

The introduction of notes and coins in 12 countries on Jan. 1, 2002, was a massive logistical undertaking that followed up on the introduction of the euro for accounting purposes and electronic payments three years earlier, on Jan. 1, 1999. Today, the euro is used in 19 of 27 EU countries.

The cash introduction saw the new euro notes and coins quickly replace German marks, French francs and Italian lire in ATMs,



A light installation is projected onto the building of the European Central Bank during a rehearsal in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021.

cash registers, and wallets and purses. Shop customers who paid in the old currencies received change in euros under fixed exchange rates. That swept the old currencies out of circulation as people spent their remaining national cash.

Warnings of a logistical catastrophe did not come true. ECB President Christine Lagarde — in 2002 an attorney with a global law firm — recalled withdrawing her first euros from a cash machine near her home in Normandy with friends who predicted the

switch would overload the machines. "We made a bet: if the machine gave us French francs instead of euro notes, they could keep the money," she wrote on the ECB's website. "After midnight, we tried the cash machine. It dispensed brand new crisp

euro banknotes, and we all raised a glass to the new European currency."

The bank plans to redesign the banknotes, with a final decision on the new look expected in 2024. The original designs with generic windows, doorways and bridges from various eras that don't represent any specific place or monument have undergone one relatively minor update since introduction. The bank is also studying a possible digital version of the currency.

The euro has been through its ups and downs since its launch as a major project of European integration. The currency union faced speculation it would break up during an extended crisis over government and bank debt in 2011-2015. European Central Bank head Mario Draghi helped end market turbulence with his July 26, 2012, promise to "do whatever it takes" to preserve the euro, followed by the ECB's offer to purchase the government debt of countries facing excessive borrowing costs. □

Associated Press

U.S. Postal Service recovers from poor holiday showing in 2020

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)

— The U.S. Postal Service pulled out all the stops to avoid a repeat of the 2020 holiday shipping disaster, and it worked.

The Postal Service and several other private shippers reported that holiday season deliveries went smoothly for the most part.

ShipMatrix, which analyzes shipping package data, reported that 96.9% of the Postal Service's shipments were on time during a two-week period in December. Overall, it was a major improvement across the board compared with last year, when more than a third of first-class mail was late by the time Christmas arrived.

"We're happy to have brought all of the good holiday cheer that we could," said Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, which represents more than

200,000 postal workers.

Leading up to the holidays, there were dire warnings of supply chain problems and shipping delays. In the end, shoppers heeded supply chain warnings by ordering and shipping items earlier, while more people opted to shop in stores than the year before, said Satish Jindel, ShipMatrix president in Pennsylvania.

The Postal Service installed 112 new package sorting machines, transitioned more than 60,000 pre-career employees to the ranks of career employees, hired 40,000 seasonal employees and leased extra space at more than 100 locations since last year, officials said. As a bonus, the number of quarantined postal workers was less than last year, though they're trending upward.

With new standards that extended the deadline on some long-distance mail,

the service reported 89.8% of first-class parcels delivered on time through the first 12 weeks of the quarter, and anticipated 12 billion pieces of mail and packages would be delivered between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

During the period between Dec. 12-21, UPS and FedEx also saw on-time delivery rates topping 90%, Jindel said. They, too, bolstered their workforces, hiring more than 190,000 additional workers to be better prepared for the holiday peak.

For the U.S. Postal Service, about 6,500 postal workers were under COVID-19 quarantine on Christmas Eve, which was better than the year before when 19,000 workers were out at the December peak, according to the American Postal Workers Union.

But those numbers are growing. This week, the



A worker carries a large parcel at the United States Postal Service sorting and processing facility, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

number of quarantined workers grew to nearly 8,000, the union said. Fredric Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, said obstacles like the pandemic and quarantines provide staffing challenges, but "they don't alter the mission."

The U.S. Postal Service declined to comment on the quarantine figures, but "we can assure you that the Postal Service does have resources in place, including adequate staffing, to meet the service needs of our customers, now and in the future," said spokesperson Kim Frum. □

CROSSWORD

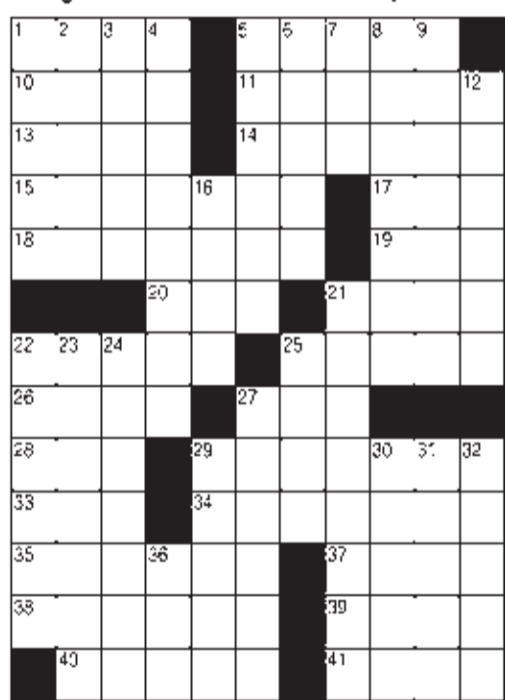
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Rowing team
 - 1 Blinds piece
 - 5 Spirited horse
 - 10 Broad
 - 11 Vestiges
 - 13 Heaps
 - 14 Oxygen-thriving organism
 - 15 Foster
 - 17 Skin art, for short
 - 18 Grabbed with a toothpick
 - 19 Halloween mo.
 - 20 Heel
 - 21 Male moose
 - 22 Odor
 - 25 "You Don't Know —" (Cole Porter song)
 - 26 Parakeet home
 - 27 Golf goal
 - 28 Major lang.
 - 29 Championship emblem
 - 33 Slangy denial
 - 34 Toronto's province
 - 35 Stuck at the chalet, perhaps



Saturday's answer

- DOWN**
- 8 Travel to
 - 24 Brainiac
 - 25 Gasp for air
 - 27 Wrote
 - 29 Modeling asset
 - 30 Ordered display
 - 31 Brother's daughter
 - 32 Took to impound
 - 36 Used a spade



A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

AN AK LGN OGKKARZM UGS
PAXAZAEJNAGL NG UZGH
RJPYHJSWK HCAZM NCMSM AK
VGDNC AL NCM HGSZW
— CMZML YMZZMS

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THE FIRST MAN GETS THE OYSTER. THE SECOND MAN GETS THE SHELL. — ANDREW CARNEGIE

2021 box office closes with more fireworks for 'Spider-Man'



In this image released by Sony Pictures, Tom Holland stars in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "Spider-Man: No Way Home." Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood closed out 2021 with more fireworks at the box office for "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which topped all films for the third straight week and already charts among the highest grossing films ever. But even with all the champagne popping for "No Way Home," the film industry heads into 2022 with plenty of reason for both optimism and concern after a year that saw overall ticket revenue double that of 2020, but still well off the pre-pandemic pace.

Movie theaters began the year mostly shuttered but ended it with a monster smash. Sony Pictures' Marvel sequel "No Way Home" grossed an estimated \$52.7 million over the weekend to bring its three-week total to \$609.9 million. That ranks 10th all-time in North America. Worldwide, it's made \$1.37 billion, a total that puts it above "Black Panther" and makes it the 12th highest grossing film globally.

"No Way Home," Tom Holland's third standalone film as the webslinger, gave a huge lift to the box-office recovery that started in earnest last spring when U.S. cinemas opened after

a year of COVID-19 closures. Marvel films dominated the turbulent year, accounting for the top four movies of 2021: "No Way Home," "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," "Venom: Let There Be Carnage" and "Black Widow." The North American box office in 2021 amounted to \$4.5 billion, according to data firm ComScore. That's about 60% down from 2019 — back before the days of masked moviegoers, social distancing and virus variants like the currently surging omicron.

Whether the movies will ever reach those pre-pandemic totals again is uncertain, given that exclusive theatrical windows have since shrunk, studios have experimented with hybrid releases and little besides superhero films are packing theaters. Partly due to COVID-19 disruptions, the 2022 release schedule is unusually packed with potential blockbusters, including "The Batman," "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Top Gun: Maverick," "Jurassic World: Dominion," "Thor: Love and Thunder" and "Avatar 2."

Second place over the weekend went to Universal Picture's animated sequel

"Sing 2." It took in \$19.6 million in its second weekend to bring its two-week total to \$89.7 million. That's a steady result given that family movies and films skewing toward older moviegoers have been the slowest to bounce back during the pandemic. "Sing 2" added another \$54.9 million internationally. Its trajectory should make it the top animated release of the pandemic.

But after "No Way Home" and "Sing 2," there was little that appealed to moviegoers over the holiday weekend. "The King's Man," the third installment in Matthew Vaughn's "Kingsman" series, grossed a modest \$4.5 million in its second week after a lackluster debut. But that was still good enough for third place. The Disney release, produced by 20th Century Studios, has made \$47.8 million globally.

Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" sold \$2.1 million in tickets in its fourth weekend. While holding well (the film dropped 26% from the week prior), the once-envisioned holiday upswing for the acclaimed musical hasn't materialized. "West Side Story" has grossed a disappointing \$29.6 million domestically.

After flopping on its debut last week, Warner Bros.' "The Matrix Resurrections" dropped a steep 64% in its second weekend with \$3.8 million. The film is simultaneously streaming on HBO Max, a 2021 practice that the studio has pledged to end in 2022. The long-incoming "Matrix" reboot was even edged by the second week of the Kurt Warner NFL drama "American Underdog," which grossed \$4.1 million for Lionsgate.

One of the only new releases of the week was Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Memoria," with Tilda Swinton. Its distributor, Neon, has laid out a novel strategy for the art-house release, playing the film in only one theater at a time, with no plans for a future streaming or physical release. □

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Airline trade group seeks delay in 5G communications launch



Travelers line up for flights at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. airlines are asking the Federal Communications Commission to delay next week's scheduled rollout of new 5G wireless service near dozens of major airports, saying it could interfere with electronics that pilots rely on.

Airlines for America, a trade group for large U.S. passenger and cargo carriers, said in an emergency filing that the FCC has failed to adequately consider the harm that 5G service could do to the industry. The group wants more time for the FCC and the Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates airlines, to resolve issues around aviation safety related to a type of 5G service called C-Band.

AT&T and Verizon Communications previously agreed

to a one-month delay in 5G, which provides faster speeds when mobile devices connect to their networks and allows users to connect many devices to the internet without slowing it down.

Late Friday, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson wrote to the CEOs of AT&T and Verizon to propose a delay in activating 5G C-band service near an undetermined number of "priority airports" while the FAA studies the potential for interference with aircraft operations.

Buttigieg and Dickson said forging ahead with next week's activation "will result in widespread and unacceptable disruption as airplanes divert to other cities or flights are canceled," while a delay around cer-

tain airports would have minimal short-term impacts. Verizon spokesman Richard Young said, "We received the letter a short time ago, after 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and we will need some time to review it."

AT&T spokeswoman Kim Hart Jonson said the company was reviewing the letter. The airline industry trade group warned of significant damage if the 5G rollout goes ahead near major airports.

"Aircraft will not be able to rely on radio altimeters for numerous flight procedures and thus will not be able to land at certain airports," the group said in a filing Thursday. Radio altimeters measure the height of planes above the ground. A4A, as the group is called, said its 11 member airlines face the need to reroute or cancel "thousands" of flights, resulting in losses topping \$1 billion. The group said the new ser-

vice will affect all three major airports in the New York City area — LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark, New Jersey — as well as O'Hare in Chicago, Logan in Boston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Los Angeles International and San Francisco. The trade group's general counsel threatened to go to court next week if the FAA does not respond to the group's request for a delay. □



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Canucks employee says thanks to fan through viral letter

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Brian "Red" Hamilton was in the middle of moving equipment on the Vancouver Canucks' bench in between periods on Oct. 23 in Seattle when he noticed a woman behind the bench pressing her phone against the plexiglass.

The message on her phone was written in a large font and caught the attention of Hamilton, the assistant equipment manager for the Canucks. The message expressed Nadia Popovici's concern that she believed a mole on the back of Hamilton's neck was cancerous and that he needed to get it checked.

It turned out she was right. "I felt bad at the moment because I'm walking off the bench and she put her phone up to the glass and on the phone it said the mole on the back of your neck is cancer. And it threw me off," Hamilton recalled on Saturday before the Canucks played their second game of the season in Seattle. "So I kind of just shrugged and kept going. My initial response when I



Seattle Kraken fan Nadia Popovici poses for a photo before an NHL hockey game between the Kraken and the Vancouver Canucks, Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, in Seattle.

Associated Press

found out was I felt bad because I felt like I didn't really give her the time of day. I'm excited that she knows because she needs to know." The Canucks posted a letter from Hamilton on Saturday retelling the story of how all this played out and expressing his thanks and desire to meet the woman in question. Within barely an hour, both the Canucks

and Seattle Kraken said the 22-year-old Popovici had been contacted after spending New Year's Eve working at a crisis hotline. The pair were able to meet about 90 minutes before the Kraken and Canucks played on Saturday night. "The fact that I got to look him in the eye and hear what happened from his perspective," said Popo-

vici, who graduated from the University of Washington and intends to attend medical school in the next year. "Imagine how jarring that is to for you to be at work and someone just kind of looks at you and says, 'Hey, maybe you go see a doctor.' That's not what you want to hear. So the fact that I got to see him and talk to his family members

that have been really impacted by him dodging a big bullet that's so special." The Kraken acknowledged the story of what happened midway through the first period to a standing ovation from the crowd and announced both franchises would be giving Popovici a joint gift of \$10,000 to help with her medical school expenses. Hamilton has been with the Canucks for nearly 20 years, starting with the team in 2002. Amid the chaos that happens around the bench of an NHL game, Hamilton said he was amazed Popovici was able to even notice a mole he had no idea existed.

"How she saw it boggles my mind," Hamilton said. "It wasn't very big. I wear a jacket. I wear a radio on the back of my jacket that hooks on so the cords are there."

Popovici said she's done a lot of volunteer work in hospitals including a stint helping in an oncology ward. "I saw his and I was like, wow, that is a picture perfect example of what a melanoma looks like," Popovici said. □

U.S. over Canada easily, Russia beats France at ATP Cup

SYDNEY (AP) — The United States beat Canada and defending champion Russia defeated France at the ATP Cup on Sunday, with the the Americans taking a much easier route.

John Isner and Taylor Fritz beat their Canadian singles opponents and then clinched the match in doubles for a 3-0 win.

Isner beat Brayden Schnur 6-1, 6-4 in 66 minutes to give the Americans the early lead. Schnur was a late replacement for Denis Shapovalov, who withdrew from the opening singles match Sunday due to fatigue. The Canadian is recovering from having contracted COVID-19 at a recent tournament in the Middle East.

Fritz then came from a set down to beat No. 11-ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4 and clinch the

match before the Americans won the doubles 6-4, 6-4 over Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov.

Russia, meanwhile, needed the deciding doubles match to clinch victory over France.

Roman Safiullin beat Arthur Rinderknech of France 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 before No. 35-ranked Ugo Humbert evened the match with an upset 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (2) win over No. 2 Daniil Medvedev.

But Medvedev and Safiullin came back to beat two fresh opponents in the doubles — Fabrice Martin and Edouard Roger-Vasselin — 6-4, 6-4.

Both night matches went to the deciding doubles after Britain and Italy took early leads.

Daniel Evans beat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-1, 6-2 while Italy's Jannik

Sinner defeated Australia's Max Purcell 6-1, 6-3.

But world No. 3 Alexander Zverev of Germany beat Cameron Norris 7-6 (2), 6-1 and Australia's Alex de Minaur defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 7-6 (4) to send both matches to a doubles decider.

In the doubles, Britain's Norris and Jamie Murray secured the tie with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germany's Zverev and Kevin Kravietz. Later, home favorites John Peers and Luke Saville held off Italy's pairing of Berrettini and Simone Bolelli 6-3, 7-5. Isner saved the only break point he faced against his Canadian opponent.

"I surprised myself with how well I played out here," Isner said in his on-court interview. "You always work hard in the offseason, but you never really know what could happen in that first



United States' John Isner hits a forehand to Canada's Brayden Schnur match at the ATP Cup tennis tournament in Sydney, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

match of the year." Isner broke twice in the first set and used his strong serve to capitalize on the advantage. The American hit 10 aces and won 46% of his return points.

"I actually really like this court. It's not too fast, which I prefer. It gives me a little time to swing out on my shots being so big. That helps me out a lot," Isner said. □

Bengals beat Chiefs 34-31, stop KC 8-game winning streak

CINCINNATI (AP) — Evan McPherson kicked a 20-yard field goal as time ran out, and the Cincinnati Bengals earned their first AFC North title and post-season appearance in six years with a wild 34-31 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday.

Rookie Ja'Marr Chase had a franchise-record 266 yards receiving and three touchdowns on 11 catches, Joe Burrow threw for 466 yards and four scores while outdueling Patrick Mahomes, and the Bengals rallied from three 14-point deficits against the AFC West champs.

Chase broke Jerry Butler's NFL rookie record set for Buffalo against the Jets with 255 on Sept. 23, 1979. Kansas City (11-5) had its eight-game winning streak ended and lost the top seed in the AFC to the Titans.

The Bengals' winning drive was filled with drama. On fourth-and-inches with under a minute left, the Bengals (10-6) went for a touchdown instead of calling on McPherson for a field goal and giving the Chiefs the ball back with a chance to win.

Burrow threw incomplete in the end zone, but Chiefs cornerback L'Jarius Sneed was flagged for illegal use of hands. Backup quarterback Brandon Allen was called on to kneel twice before McPherson came on for the winning kick.

Burrow was outstanding again, completing 30 of 39 attempts. He was sacked four times and hit at least six more times but was as accurate as ever, and Chase caught everything that was thrown near him.

Mahomes looked as if he had the game under control early. He threw two first-quarter touchdown passes to give the Chiefs the early lead, but he didn't get another one.

The Chiefs (11-5) led 14-0, 21-7 and 28-14 in the first half. They were ahead 28-17 at halftime before the Bengals began the latest of several second-half surges this season.

A 69-yard TD pass from Bur-

row to Chase early in the second half cut the Chiefs' lead to 28-24. Kansas City responded with Harrison Butker's 34-yard field goal. Burrow then hit Tyler Boyd for a 5-yard TD, capping an 86-yard drive that was twice extended by flags on Sneed, including an unnecessary roughness penalty that gave Cincinnati first-and-goal at the Kansas City 7.

Patrick Mahomes was 26 for 35 for 259 yards and threw touchdown passes to Demarcus Robinson. Tight end Travis Kelce, who caught a pass in his 125th straight game.

BUCCANEERS 28, JETS 24 EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Antonio Brown was kicked off the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after a bizarre,



Cincinnati Bengals kicker Evan McPherson (2) boots a winning 20-yard field goal during the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

shirtless exit from the field before Tom Brady coolly led the Bucs (12-4) on a 93-yard drive in the final minutes.

Coach Bruce Arians said after the game that Brown was off the team.

"He is no longer a Buc," Arians said.

Brown's meltdown came late in the third quarter with Tampa Bay trailing 24-10. He appeared animated while talking to teammate Mike Evans when he stripped off his pads, jersey, gloves and T-shirt — tossing the gloves and T-shirt into the stands — and walked bare-chested down the sideline and into the end zone. He then waved to fans as HE jogged through the end zone and into the tunnel at MetLife Stadium. It appeared to be a show of frustration by Brown, who had three catches for 26 yards. Brown was suspended last month for three games for violating the league's COVID-19 protocols. He also has a history of personal conduct issues and bizarre behavior. □

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seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

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guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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